

597 Westport Avenue
Apt. A215
Norwalk, CT 06851
March 8, 2021

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee:

In Support of Bill #1017 and Bill #6578

I urge you to support making election drop boxes permanent, establishing online application for absentee ballots, allowing voter registration at the DMV and restoring voting rights to parolees.

We have a representative democracy which *requires* that “we the people” make our opinions on the issues of the day clear by voting for candidates who seem to share our views. I am a senior citizen with a chronic health condition. The ability to vote by absentee ballot and to drop that ballot off at city hall is an incredibly convenient and safe way for me to be sure I can make my voice heard.

If one party believes it cannot win elections without limiting access to the polls, maybe that party should rethink its platform. We the people want to vote, and we want our vote respected, not undermined. We don’t want to get sick standing in line on a cold November day or to be intimidated when we do vote in person. My husband and I held placards for a candidate at our polling place in November. My husband, carrying his sign under his arm, walked over to offer the police officer on duty a cup of hot cider; the officer told him he was too close to the polls. Shortly after, a representative of the opposing candidate strolled over (visibly wearing a tee-shirt for his candidate) and had an extended conversation with the same police officer with no similar admonition. Why the double standard? Voter fraud is a bogus issue. The real problem in our electoral process is how hard we make it for *all* citizens to safely, conveniently, and legally vote for our elected representatives.

Yours truly,
Leslie P. Blank
Norwalk
(203) 939-1173
lpblank06@optimum.net

